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STATINTL

KATANGA LOBBYIST IS LINKED TO DODD

Ex-Aide Tells of 'Frequent
Contacts' With Struelens

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 27 — A former administrative assistant of Senator Thomas J. Dodd testified today that the Senator "had frequent contacts" in 1961 with Michael Struelens, then a registered lobbyist in Washington for the rebel Congolese province of Katanga and its president, Moise Tshombe.

The testimony linking Mr. Dodd with Mr. Struelens came from James P. Boyd Jr., 37 years old, the Senator's top aide for eight years until last May.

In a sworn statement, Mr. Boyd said that he had met Mr. Struelens "repeatedly" during 1961 in the Washington office of Senator Dodd, Democrat of Connecticut.

Mr. Boyd's testimony came during the second day of his interrogation by John F. Sonnett, Senator Dodd's personal counsel, for a pre trial deposition, or statement of evidence, in the Senator's libel and conspiracy suit against Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson, the columnists.

Report From Anderson

The questioning, at the law offices of Cahill, Gordon, Reindel and Ohl, was closed to newsmen under a court order.

However, a report of Mr. Boyd's testimony was given to newsmen later by Mr. Anderson, who attended and took notes. He was entitled to be present because he is a defendant in the suit.

A spokesman for the law firm declined to confirm or deny Mr. Anderson's account of the testimony.

Mr. Boyd himself had no comment on the questioning. However, he did not challenge the account of it given by Mr. Anderson, who read from his notes as Mr. Boyd stood by with a large cardboard carton of documents he was required by subpoena to bring with him. Mr. Boyd's questioning resumes next Friday.

In his suit for \$2-million, Senator Dodd, among other things, is seeking damages for what he contends was the Washington columnists' "false, malicious and defamatory" report last March 7 that the Senator had "acted in cooperation with" Mr. Struelens against the foreign policy of the United States.

President Kennedy was not supporting the Tshombe regime in Katanga in its separatist policy in the Congo.

Senate Inquiry

As a result of allegations of misconduct by Senator Dodd published in more than 30 Pearson-Anderson columns since last January, Mr. Dodd is under investigation by the Senate Select Committee on Standards and Conduct, the Internal Revenue Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The columnists have contended that their allegations have been "documented" by photocopies of thousands of letters and other documents taken from Mr. Dodd's office files by a group of the Senator's former employees.

During his testimony yesterday, which was also reported by Mr. Anderson, Mr. Boyd acknowledged for the first time under oath that he and three other former Dodd employees had supplied the columnists with "some of" the Senator's files.

Dismissal of Suit Asked

Lawyers for Mr. Pearson and Mr. Anderson asked the United States District Court here today to dismiss Senator Dodd's libel and conspiracy complaints against the columnists. The columnists' lawyers contended that both the original \$5-million suit

filed May 6 and the diminished and amended \$2-million complaint filed yesterday were "tedious, repetitious, unjustified and boring."

In their dismissal motion, John Donovan and Warren Woods, the columnists' lawyers, said that the Senator's attorneys "apparently believe in litigation by tonnage" in pleadings, in violation of court rules.

One effect of the dismissal motion, whether or not it is granted, will be to delay the pre-trial procedures. Senator Dodd said yesterday that he was trying to hasten these procedures by dropping 10 of the 14 specific counts in his original complaint.